

NEW DEPARTURE

Negro Families May be Brought to Hawaii.

TO WORK ON PLANTATIONS

Scheme Favored by the Hawaiian Government.

Planters Considering Proposition. Some Look Upon It With Great Favor.

For several months past the Hawaiian Planters' Association has been in correspondence with a gentleman in San Francisco regarding the introduction of black laborers on the plantations, to supersede the Asiatics. The fact that the Chinese are about to be shut off by the Hawaiian Government and the number of Japanese limited by the terms of the old convention, makes the Southern negro the most available of any class suited to the conditions of the country.

A gentleman, with ample capital, interested in the scheme, came down on the Australia, and has had several conferences with the directorate of the Planters' Association, and, while he has had no direct orders for the labor, he has had much encouragement.

When seen by a reporter for the Advertiser yesterday, he expressed himself freely on the prospects of introducing negro labor here, and his faith in the satisfactory results which would ensue to the planters.

"I find some people here whose knowledge of the Southern darkey is limited to cities and comic papers, but let me assure you that there is as wide a difference between the plantation negro and the colored chap who haunts the cities or works on the levees as there is between day and night. The plantation darkey cares only for his family, and he is honest and faithful to his employer and is hard working. He knows what hard work and long hours means, because he has been brought up to it in the cotton field or on the sugar and tobacco plantation.

"Knowing the conditions which exist here and the character of the negro race, I made a proposition to furnish the planters here with an unlimited number of negro families. After several months of correspondence with the Secretary of the Planters' Association, I came down to talk the matter over with them, and I believe they will adopt my suggestion. The plantation negro is a type peculiar to himself, and he is not to be found on a sleeping car or behind a barber's chair. He belongs on a plantation, and except in rare cases, he remains there from birth to death. As to his power to labor in this climate, there can be no doubt. He would be in his element, and I would not hesitate to guarantee that two Southern negroes would outwork three Japanese, or in fact, laborers of any nationality. I know just what I am talking about in this matter, because I have watched people of both races at work.

"Competition with the whites? Well, hardly. If the planters and your Government want this class of labor for the fields, all right; they cannot do better. If they want them for business men and land owners, I would say emphatically, no. They should not be taken out of the environments which have been their during life. You have here in Hawaii everything dear to the negro's heart, and he will be happy and contented in the cane field. My connections in the South are such that every family of negroes brought here by me would be selected according to the conditions of the country. I would bring families of a man and wife and his children. And these children, mind you, would provide sustenance for the old folks to this extent: A plantation negro does not care for white bread, and he abhors hard tack; his mainstay is corn and bacon. Give one of these darkeys a little patch for a garden, and the boys and girls will hoe the corn and pound it into meal when it has ripened. Every darkey likes bacon and — Chickens? Yes; he likes chickens, and give him half a chance he will raise them in spite of the mongoose. He will raise hogs and smoke his own bacon. In some of the Southern districts, rice is used a great deal, and here in Hawaii he can get as good as can be found in the world.

"Now as to my method of securing these people: There is not one family in a hundred—perhaps more—who has work the year round. I will go through the belt from one end to the other, selecting two or three families in each place—there will be no trouble to get the right kind—and tell them the situation. If they are ready, I will bring them at once; if not, I will return when I have selected those from other districts. Having secured the required number of families, it will be necessary to get overseers—men who thoroughly understand work in the cane—and bring them with me, for you must understand that negroes require overseers just as the Asiatics do. As a train is filled I will go with it to San Francisco and deliver the people over

to my agents there, who will then take them to Hawaii.

"The wages paid the men and women will be higher than that paid Japanese, but considering the difference in the quantity and quality of work done, the amount is less. I have had a very pleasant interview with the members of the Government, and I am sure they will interpose no objection to them. On the contrary, the idea meets with favor. I do not see why they should, if they look at it from a political standpoint. The objection to annexation on the part of some of the people of the United States is on the score of Asiatic labor, and President McKinley stands today, in his annexation attitude, arrayed against every labor organization in the United States. Eliminate that objectionable feature and there is nothing in the way. The Southern negro is American pure and simple, and when the people of the United States know that the planters of Hawaii are ready to take that class of labor as against Asiatics, they will hurray louder for annexation than you do down here.

"The only opponents to the plan of bringing negroes here are those who have not studied the negro character by personal observation. They read of a crime committed by a negro and the sensational lynching of the man, and then stamp the whole race with the mold of that criminal. In my experience, covering a good many years, I can truthfully say that these occurrences are exceptions, and it is seldom, if ever, that a plantation negro is the guilty man. These men usually come from the large towns and cities, or are workers on the levees. In the criminal annals of the United States, how often do you find a man who has spent his life on a farm, guilty of a misdemeanor or a crime? Having been brought up away from the allurements of city life, his wants are never out of proportion to his surroundings. It is the same with the negro, and the people who I will contract to land here will not belong to a class that will be heard of in your police courts, but will be found, rather, when Sunday comes around, attending church. Every reading man and every traveled man knows the darkey's love for the good old Methodist Church, and once the negro is established here, you will find that branch of religion flourishing like the green bay tree."

"One of the leading agents for plantations here, when asked his views on the subject, said: "I objected to it, first, merely from a political standpoint. I felt that if we drew our full supply from one district, like Louisiana, for instance, it might injure our chances for annexation for the reason that the people of that State would shout that we were depriving them of their labor supply. But I find I am mistaken, no district will be depleted as it is the intention of the gentleman who is here to take only a few families from each district."

"My knowledge of the negro is limited, but I will admit that the idea of bringing them here is a good one and now is a good time to begin. There can be no question regarding there being Americans and that is what the people of the United States want us to have. I would like to see every plantation on the islands start in now with 100 families. There is no question about the climate suiting them, and, from what I have learned since I began to investigate the matter, they are better able to do the work required of them than the Japanese."

"It is pretty generally understood that the Cabinet is a unit in favoring the measure. One of the ministers said in response to a question: "The objections I think is a mere matter of sentiment. Once in a while there is a hue and cry raised because a crime has been committed by a negro and the whole country immediately gets down on the entire race in consequence. To me it is a mistake. There is what is known as the "black belt" containing 10,000,000 people and occasionally some crime is committed by a negro. It is not always the crime that attracts attention from people of other parts of the world, but the manner of the punishment. It is not a long time since that the newspapers of the United States, and even of Europe, were full of accounts, written and pictured, of the burning of a negro criminal at a stake, by an infuriated mob. It is the punishment of that man that is before me now, but I have forgotten just what crime it was he committed. I do not believe crime is as rampant among the people of the 'black belt' as in any other locality of the same number of people. Politically, the move to bring those people here would be beneficial to us all."

Another minister stated that he had been favorable to it for years, and hoped the planters would see their way clear to bringing in the families as soon as possible.

Another gentleman remarked, on hearing of the scheme: "I wish they would bring in 10,000 before the 1st of January. They are a better class of labor in a climate like ours than any other race of people, except, perhaps, Hawaiians, and I believe they will do more work than the Hawaiians."

"My opinion of the negro is based on what I have seen of him in the South, in Kansas and in the State of Washington. I will relate only the latter. In 1894, there was a miners' strike at Rosslyn and everything was closed down. The Northern Pacific Railway is interested in the mines, and the matter was growing serious. Finally, some person suggested bringing negroes from the South. An agent was dispatched there, and in a few weeks he returned with 850, nearly half of whom brought their families with them. They were put into the mines almost in the face of the Winchesters in the hands of the strikers. From that day until I left there, a few weeks ago, there had not been a complaint filed by a mine superintendent, nor has a committee from the miners found it necessary to wait on the superintendent to file a complaint as to overtime or class of work. If the people of Hawaii can get the right class of negro plantation labor, such as I have seen, they had better secure it."

It is expected that at least four orders will be sent away by the next steamer, and if the men, women and children are what they are said to be, a future visit to the plantations of the Islands may be looked upon with greater enjoyment than is now the case.

ARE LESS HOSTILE

Japanese Newspapers Not So Aggressive in Their Tone.

THE DUTY ON SAKÉ EXPLAINED

Government Did Not Receive Protest in Time.

Japanese Emigrating to Brazil. Foot-binding in Disfavor in North China.

The Japanese papers in the vernacular are recently not so hostile in their attitude toward Hawaii as they were, over the increase of the duty on saké. The Mainichi Shimbun publishes the following: The imposition of the increased duty in question was duly discussed by the Hawaiian Legislature some time ago, and the proposal having been approved, was embodied in a law and promulgated. Not until after the promulgation of the law was any objection raised by the Japanese Government, and it could scarcely have been expected that the law would be at once suspended or modified in consideration of that objection. Had a protest been lodged before the project of the law was submitted to Parliament, the situation would be different. But that precaution not having been taken, nothing remains now except to pay the tax.

The Hawaiian Government has been approached on the subject, and may possibly agree to reduce the tax to the old figure—15 cents a barrel—in which event the surplus will be returned to importers. But in the meanwhile there is no just cause of complaint, nor can Hawaii be said to have disregarded Japan's protest, inasmuch as the law in question was promulgated before any protest had been made.

JAPANESE PASSPORTS. Large Proportion of Japanese Come to Hawaii.

The Japanese Foreign Office publishes the following interesting figures: Number of passports granted in 1894, 16,726; 1895, 22,411; 1896, 27,555. Further analysis shows that among those going abroad in 1896, 811 went on public business, 211 went to Europe and America, 29 to Korea, 26 to China, 17 to England and 84 to various other countries, for purposes of study, at public or private charge. Korea attracted the largest number of business men, namely, 1,414; China came next, with 434; then followed the United States with 360, Russia with 327, Hawaii with 225 and other countries with smaller figures, the grand total of mercantile men being 3,124. In connection with agriculture and fishing 2,323 went to Russia, 828 to Korea and others elsewhere, making a total of 3,295. Laborers aggregated 17,689, of whom 9,206 went to Hawaii, 4,120 to Russia, 1,066 to the United States, 630 to Korea, 865 to Canada, 778 to Australia and 211 to China.

Japan's Internal Loan. The Mail says that the Nichi Nichi gives credence to a rumor that the Government will shortly raise an internal loan by issuing industrial bonds to the people. The condition of the home money-market does not seem to be favorable for such a project, consols and war bonds having fallen to 97.60 yen and 97.80, respectively, while there is no question of the stringency in commercial circles. It must also be borne in mind that many of the projects contemplated by the Government for the last fiscal year have not been completed, and some 25,000,000 or 26,000,000 yen voted by the Diet for these purposes has to be carried forward into the accounts of the current year. These sums are, therefore, available, if the Government is actually pressed for money.

Fondal System in Japan.

YOKOHAMA, July 17.—Japan may have a small edition of Ireland on her hands before long. In the Riukiu Islands there is a party calling itself the Fukuhanto, or advocates of the restoration of the feudal system. They are about to send a committee to Tokyo for the purpose of petitioning the Government: first, to make the former King their chief; secondly, to remove all officials belonging to other parts of Japan, and thirdly, to put an end to all interference on the part of the Tokyo Government. In short, they want to have Riukiu made independent.

Korea's Foreign Trade.

The Jiji Shimpō publishes a telegram from Seoul, dated the 5th inst., to the effect that the Korean Government, independently of its treaty with Japan, intends to open Mokupho and Chinnampo to foreign trade from the 1st of October next. An intimation to that sense has been conveyed to the foreign representatives. The opening will be effected by royal ordinance, and the rules relating to the settlements will be compiled after consultation with the various legations.

Foot-binding Dying Out.

The North China Daily News says: According to a leading article in the Sinwenpao exhorting its readers to taboo bound feet in women, and strongly advocating natural feet for the next generation of women in China, it appears that a large number of influen-

tial members of the literati and gentry in Kwangtung province have also written against foot-binding, and several anti-binding societies have in consequence already been established in that province. "Hence mothers need not fear now that their daughters cannot marry well with natural feet, as the members of these societies have agreed to let their children intermarry. As all the members, so far, are either men of high literary standing or wealth, the natural-foot girls will be able to marry into the best of provincial families." In the prefecture of Shaoh'ing, Kwangtung, the people of over 80 villages never bind their daughters' feet. This antipathy to foot-binding found its origin in the Taiping rebellion. When the rebels got to Shaoh'ing they killed all the women with bound feet, while those with natural feet all escaped.

RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION. Assurance of Japanese Consul to Australian Officials.

A Sydney paper has the item that the Japanese Consul states that there is no likelihood of extensive emigration of Japanese to Australia. Probably the Japanese Government would restrict emigration to the Queensland sugar plantations and other places where the Japanese were not objected to. The emigration of a few thousand would do Japan no good. The Government did not want to arouse ill-feeling in Australia over such a trifling matter.

During the recent visit of the Premiers to London they were in conference with the leading officials of the Colonial Office, and the treaty entered into between Great Britain and Japan was under discussion. With the exception of Queensland, all the Colonies declined to adopt the treaty.

No Further Restrictions.

YOKOHAMA, July 16.—The Yorucho Choho reports that the Foreign Department received a telegram on the 5th inst., from Mr. Shimamura, Japanese Minister in Hawaii, to the effect that no hindrance will be exercised hereafter in the landing of Japanese contract immigrants in Hawaii. The department has wired to all the local Governors to that effect.

Russia's Opinion of Hawaii.

LONDON, June 26.—The Berlin correspondent of the Standard says: Russia will not join in Japan's protest against the annexation of Hawaii by the United States, but she regards the move as a dangerous precedent.

Famine in China.

The Jiji Shimpō publishes a statement that famine is now prevailing in the Shihseho district of China and that hundreds of people are dying daily.

Japanese Emigrants.

YOKOHAMA, July 16.—Fifteen hundred contract emigrants are to leave Kobe for Brazil by the Tosa Maru next month.

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